

Thermal Weapons Sight (TWS)

DESCRIPTION

The Thermal Weapons Sight (TWS) is a lightweight, low power, high performance Forward Looking Infrared device. TWS will augment/replace existing crew-served night vision sights. It does not rely on visible light for operation, and is virtually unaffected by weather and obscurants (both natural and man made). The TWS operates by discerning the temperature variation between targets and their background. The TWS is completely passive and although designed for target detection and engagement with Marine Corps crew served weapons, can be used for all weather surveillance.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY00	FY01
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>743</i>

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

TWS provides twenty four (24) hour target detection, recognition, identification, and engagement capability for Marines armed with ground mounted crew served weapons. With this technology Marine gunners and crews can remain undetected while engaging threat targets. Currently, TOW and DRAGON anti-armor missiles, as well as numerous aircraft fire control systems use FLIR to ensure targeting capability in all weather, under the widest range of battlefield conditions. TWS provides ground units with a versatile long range all weather targeting capability against the complete range of threats (personnel, vehicles, armor, air) found on the modern battlefield.

PROGRAM STATUS

The U.S. Army, as the Lead Service, has reached Milestone III for the Low Rate Initial Production and Bridge configured TWS Operational Test and Evaluation is scheduled for FY00, with a Marine Corps Acquisition Decision expected in FY01. IOC is anticipated in FY03 with FOC in FY07.

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Raytheon Systems Company